

less than  $0.4^\circ$ .

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action (Paper No. 9) mailed September 10, 1999. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks are courteously requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 7 and 8 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been amended herein. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment can be found at least on page 11, lines 13-22.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,764,613 (Yamamoto et al.). This rejection, in light of this amendment, is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 7 and 8 each relate to an optical disc recording/reproduction apparatus (or method) having an objective (or first) lens and a forward (or second) lens and recite, inter alia, a lens holder in which the objective (first) lens and the forward (second) lens are fixed, and that the objective (first) lens and forward (second) lens have a total numerical aperture of 0.8 or above, a center position shift tolerance of  $\pm 80 \mu\text{m}$ , a distance between the objective (first) lens and forward (second) lens of  $25 \mu\text{m}$  or less, and inclination angles less than  $0.4^\circ$ .

With the above-mentioned features, the present invention reduces the wave front aberration to less than  $\lambda/4$ , which is sufficient to maintain read/write signal quality. Moreover, the

overall geometric size and weight of the device is smaller than in prior art devices.

Yamamoto et al. relates to an optical disc recording/reproduction apparatus having an objective lens and a forward lens. However, Yamamoto et al. does not disclose, or even suggest, that the objective lens and forward lens are fixed, nor that the objective lens and forward lens have a total numerical aperture of 0.8 or above, a center position shift tolerance of  $\pm 80 \mu\text{m}$ , a distance between the objective lens and forward lens of  $25 \mu\text{m}$  or less, and inclination angles less than  $0.4^\circ$ . Each of these features is present in the amended independent claims.

Thus, at least as amended, the independent claims are patentable over Yamamoto et al. The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the independent claims.

The dependent claims are also allowable for the reasons given with respect to the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

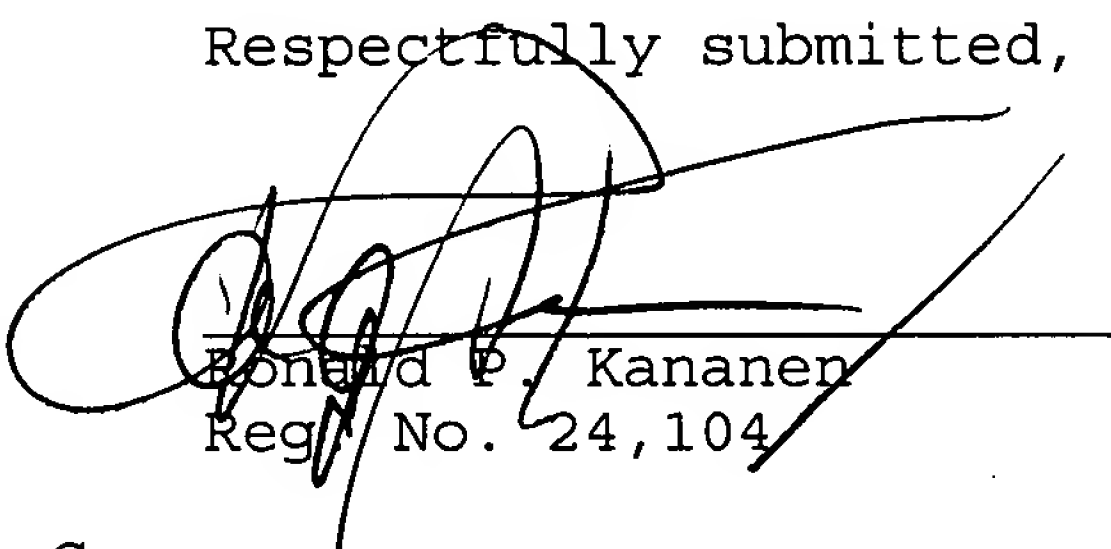
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the claims are now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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